

October 3, 1984

TO: Memo to File

FROM: Susan Linner, Reclamation Biologist/Permit Supervisor *SLC*

RE: American Gilsonite Company, Bonanza Operations,
ACT/047/010, Uintah County, Utah

On September 20, 1984, Susan Linner, Lynn Kunzler and Tom Portle of the Division, accompanied by LeRoy Fyock and Mary Lozano of Chevron (owners of American Gilsonite Company) visited several mine sites on the American Gilsonite property. The first site visited was an area along the main dirt road going south from Bonanza where an open segment of the Rainbow (mined prior to 1977) vein had been shot with explosives, and regraded to close the vein. The regraded area is fenced and will be reseeded this fall.

Two other Rainbow sites (#2 and 3), which were mined after 1977 were also visited. Chevron had planned to reclaim these areas this fall, but after seeing the area Division representatives suggested that reclamation be delayed a year due to the fact that the area is overgrown with weeds. The Division suggested that the area be sprayed with a herbicide next spring when the young weed plants begin to emerge. The weeds should be susceptible to the poison at that time and seeded species won't have to try to compete with large weed plants. It was suggested that the area be drill seeded in the fall of 1985, or else ripped and broadcast seeded. There is no topsoil available for reclamation.

Two sites on the Harrison vein (#2 and 3) which were reseeded this spring, also without topsoil, were visited. Revegetation success was low, except for large stands of Halogeton sp, an undesirable species. The one bright spot was an area where mulch had been laid down. In this area seed from the mulch was growing vigorously and little halogeton was evident. It appears that the mulch inhibited weed growth, probably by using all available water for the seed in it. Mr. Fyock indicated that in the future seeding will be done in the fall (to increase moisture availability) and mulch will be used on all sites.

jvb
cc: LeRoy Fyock, Chevron
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